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EUROPE

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State Dept. review completed

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2. HUNGARY: MA comments on travel restrictions-- The US Military Attache in Budapest, in commenting on the travel restrictions recently imposed by the Hungarian Government, observes that recent field coverage throughout the country "certainly produced nothing" to indicate any imminent build-up by the Hungarians in the Yugoslav border area or any unusual Soviet activity. In this connection, he further observes that the current disorganized state of the Hungarian Army, as the result of "somewhat clumsy" attempts at a build-up, should preclude its participation as an entity for several months at least. He grants, however, that the army has the capability to help launch and support logistically any partisan activity against Tito. Concerning the new travel restrictions, the MA "cannot believe" they have been imposed for any immediate purpose, either military or political, and suggests only that they represent a general tightening of security in order to conform more closely to the Soviet pattern. He points out, however, that the possibility cannot be dismissed that the USSR ordered the restrictions in order to hide a planned influx of Soviet troops. He estimates that the restrictions have reduced the effectiveness of his office by 75 percent.

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3. FRANCE: Government thought "ripe" to fall-- US Embassy Paris expresses the view that the Plevin Government "has about exhausted its reservoir of good will" and may fall on any one of the issues now on the Assembly schedule. The Embassy points out that the dissatisfactions of the Radicals, Socialists, and the MRP with the government are related to issues which they consider especially important because of the coming elections. The Embassy believes that Plevin could get his "second wind" if he could drive the government

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and Assembly through to conclude the electoral reform law and that he would be considerably helped if he could claim, upon his return from the US, that the US has gained in its understanding of the French point of view and certain French needs, particularly with respect to Indochina. The Embassy considers that given this and the conclusion of the electoral reform law, the Pleven Government might last until the elections. The Embassy's first guess as to Pleven's successor, if his government falls before the elections, is Bidault, president of the MRP. According to the Embassy, Bidault has a double advantage for the Radicals in that he: (a) is a convinced proponent of close alignment with the US; and (b) has shown extreme moderation on the electoral reform law issue.

Government deals vigorously with Communist fronts--
US Embassy Paris believes the French Government's 24 January orders, calling for the dissolution within one month of the World Federation of Trade Unions, the World Federation of Democratic Youth, and the International Federation of Democratic Women, offer further encouraging evidence of official determination to deal energetically with the Communist threat in France. Moreover, the French Government has by this action deprived these Communist front organizations of the hallmark of respectability which possession of a headquarters in a Western capital has heretofore given them.

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